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CONFERENCES AND BANK LOANS AID FARMERS

SHENSI HOLDS CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL DELEGATES -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 7 Apr 50

Sian, 5 April (Hsin-hua): A 7-day conference of agricultural delegates representing all races in the province closed here 31 March. The delegates discussed and adopted all the regular plans of the central government for agricultural production including preparation for land distribution and the organization of agricultural associations on all levels from provincial down to local. Among the resolutions on increasing production was one setting a goal of one liter of grain per mou increase in production this year over last year.

Emphasis was laid on promoting interracial cooperation in agricultural activities.

One resolution called for training a large number of veterinary surgeons to circulate in the grazing areas to keep up the health of the herds and improve and increase stock breeding. Food raising in the grazing areas is to be stepped up to cut down the consumption of herds for human food. Marketing centers are to be set up to handle wool sales.

The delegates agreed to assist local officials by propaganda and supervision in doing away with poppy planting and the use of opium and to seek to have all land formerly employed for poppy raising converted to raising food stuffs.

CATTLE SHORTAGE HINDERS SPRING PLANTING -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 6 Apr 50

The importance of work cattle to the Chinese peasant's agricultural economy is indisputable.

The People's government is exceedingly interested in this matter and has attempted to insure some stability in the situation by sending out veterinary teams to inoculate stock against cattle plague and to treat diseased animals.

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Although data on the work cattle population are incomplete, partial data from various areas give some idea of the situation.

There is a shortage of more than 19,000 work cattle in the Fou-liang Sub-district of Kiangsi. In one area of Honan, with a population of 70,000, there is one donkey and one bovine work animal for each 32 persons. In parts of the area, the supply is as low as one work animal to 160 persons. The shortage here has been somewhat accentuated by famine conditions since the turnover to CCP, but the shortage was building up before that.

In the Kiangsi area mentioned above, 7,000 animals were lost to the farmers by sale or death in recent months.

In some sections, noncooperative landlords and well-to-do farmers have deliberately sold or otherwise done away with work cattle to hinder the agricultural program of the CCP.

The People's government in all these places and others has been seeking to alleviate this shortage by various means. One method is loans. In Hupeh, loans of from 10,000 to one million catties of grain have been made for the purchase of work animals.

In their various regulations on agricultural matters, the Central government and the Central and South China Military and Political Council have emphasized prohibitions against the slaughter of work animals. They have sought to prevent disease by large-scale inoculations where cattle disease threatened and have successfully treated many animals already sick. In one area of Honan, over 13,000 animals were inoculated by veterinary teams from Peiping. The Kiangsi provincial government is planning to distribute one million cubic centimeters of serum during 1950 for inoculation against cattle disease. The Kwangtung provincial government proposes to inoculate 250,000 head of stock against cattle plague.

In areas where the land reform has been carried out, farmers have been able to use the income they received in that reform to buy stock.

Though the shortage of work animals combined with the great need of them in spring work constitutes a grave problem, in some areas not fully delivered from bureaucratic taint, the cadres have been mouthing slogans about production, etc., without recognizing the work-animal problem.

Officials have made the following suggestions for alleviation of the situation: Legal restriction on and public opinion mobilized against slaughter of work cattle; general attention to building up farmers' living standards so they will not need to sell work stock to secure funds to live; more attention to prevention and cure of cattle plague; encouragement to those who can raise cattle for rent to do so, and careful computation of human and animal labor needs for the task in hand in each area.

BANK LOANS AID PURCHASE OF FARM ANIMALS -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 16 Apr 50

Shanghai -- Eighteen Shanghai banks have organized a banking consortium to provide agricultural loans to assist farmers in procuring buffaloes or other animals for plowing. On 15 April, the agreement was signed and 50 million peoples yuan were appropriated to finance 25 animals, through the Associated Producers' Cooperative Societies and the Productive Relief Committee of Wu-chiang Hsien.

The Chin-ch'eng Bank, one of the 18 above-mentioned banks has decided to make similar loans in the Ch'ang-shu district, and is considering the same action in the Sung-kiang, T'ai-ts'ang, Chia-ting and Pao-shan districts. The bank is also training new staff members to handle agricultural loans.

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BANK LOANS AID KWANGTUNG SILK INDUSTRY -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 16 Apr 50

Canton -- The Kwangtung branch of the People's Bank, has made the first round of cash loans of 205,785,000 yuan to 346 silk farmers in seven sections of Chung-shan Hsien and Shun-te Hsien. This is to enable poor silk farmers to purchase the mulberry leaves which are the indispensable food of the silkworms. These loans are made in connection with the distribution of 2,059 sheets of silkworm eggs by the Sericulture Promotion Section of the Agricultural Department of the provincial government. The product thus made possible is estimated at 110,000 ounces of silk, which, if exported, represents a substantial amount of foreign exchange, besides affording a livelihood for the producing farmers. It is planned to extend this operation.

GRAIN CONTROL COMMISSION HOLDS CONFERENCE -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 16 Apr 50

Shanghai -- On 4 April 1950, the East China regional company of the China Food Company convened a 10-day conference of managers of provincial and city branches of the company.

The purpose of this conference was to implement the decisions of the National Food Conference and of the East China Trade Conference. At the concluding session, Chou K'ang-men of Peiping, manager of the China Food Company, addressed the conference. He stated that the central tasks in the realm of food grains is the control, transportation, and marketing of the grain. He stressed that during the rainy season, especially, efforts must be made to protect grain from damage and deterioration, using economical but effective measures. The importance of this must be impressed on workers responsible for handling the grain, and a system of rewards and punishments should be inaugurated, Chou stated.

Wang Jen-chai, of the East China Regional Company, in the final address stressed the responsibility of retail distribution, which, he said, was the most significant "bridge" between the government and the people. According to Wang, retail distribution requires efficient local organization; and these operations should not be thought of as purely commercial transactions, but as business that has human, financial, and political aspects of great importance. The Central government's price policy must be faithfully carried out, he said.

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